

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

1. (Currently amended) ~~In~~ A system for use in a communication network having a plurality of subnetworks, ~~a portable data collection terminal comprising~~ the system comprising:

a mobile computing device comprising:

a base module comprising a base processing unit operable on data in accordance with a set of communication software routines; and

a communication module comprising:

a first communication transceiver comprising a first operating characteristic to conduct data communications on a first of the plurality of subnetworks;

a second communication transceiver comprising a second operating characteristic to conduct data communications on a second of the plurality of subnetworks, the second operating characteristic being different from the first operating characteristic and the second subnetwork being different from the first subnetwork; and

a communication processor coupled between the base processing unit and the first and second communication transceivers for converting data received by the first and second communication transceivers to a format for processing by the base processing unit in accordance with the set of communicating software routines and for converting data processed by the base processing unit to a format for transmission by a selected one of the first and second communication transceivers, thereby isolating the base processing unit from differences between the first and second operating characteristics of the first and second communication transceivers.

2. (Currently amended) ~~The portable data collection terminal~~ system of claim 1 wherein the communication processor comprises:

a first processing unit coupled between the base processing unit and the first communication transceiver for converting data received by the first communication transceiver to a format for processing by the base processing unit in accordance with the set of communication software routines and for converting data processed by the base processing unit to a format for transmission by the first communication transceiver, and

a second processing unit coupled between the base processing unit and the second communication transceiver for converting data received by the second communication transceiver to a format for processing by the base processing unit in accordance with the set of communication software routines and for converting data processed by the base processing unit to a format for transmission by the second communication transceiver.

3. (Currently amended) The ~~portable data collection terminal~~system of claim 1 wherein the first communication transceiver operates in a wired subnetwork and the second communication transceiver operates in a wireless subnetwork.
4. (Currently amended) The ~~portable data collection terminal~~system of claim 3 wherein the wireless subnetwork comprises a backup network in the event of a failure in the wired subnetwork.
5. (Currently amended) The ~~portable data collection terminal~~system of claim 4 wherein the communication processor includes test means for testing the wired subnetwork.
6. (Currently amended) The ~~portable data collection terminal~~system of claim 5 wherein the test means includes means for initiating a test communication by the second communication transceiver and means responsive to the absence of receipt of a reply test communication by the first communication transceiver following initiation of a test communication by the second communication transceiver for conducting data communications with the second communication transceiver.
7. (Currently amended) The ~~portable data collection terminal~~system of claim 6 wherein the test means further includes means responsive to receipt of a test communication by the second

communication transceiver for initiating a test communication by the first communication transceiver.

8. (Currently amended) The ~~portable data collection terminal~~system of claim 1 wherein the communication module is housed in a PCMCIA card.

9. (Currently amended) The ~~portable data collection terminal~~system of claim 1 wherein the communication processor further includes means for relaying communication received by one of its first and second communication transceivers for retransmission by the other of its second and first communications transceivers.

10. (Currently amended) In the communication network of claim 1 including a computer and a plurality of ~~portable data collection terminal~~mobile computing devices each coupled to the plurality of subnetworks and wherein at least one of the communication transceivers of each of the ~~portable data collection terminal~~mobile computing devices operates in a wireless subnetwork, the communication processor of each ~~data collection terminal~~mobile computing device being responsive to an out-of-range condition for the respective ~~portable data collection terminal~~mobile computing device to initiate data communications by its said one communication transceiver to another of the plurality of ~~portable data collection terminal~~mobile computing devices, the other of the ~~data collection terminal~~mobile computing devices relaying data communications between the computer and the ~~first named~~out-of-range data collection terminal.

11. (Currently amended) A ~~portable data collection terminal~~mobile computing device comprising:

- a base module comprising a base processing unit operable on data in accordance with a set of communication software routines; and

- a communication module comprising:

- a first communication transceiver comprising a first operating characteristic for conducting data communications on a first subnetwork;

- a second communication transceiver comprising a second operating characteristic for conducting data communications on a second subnetwork, the second operating characteristic being different from the first operating

characteristic and the second subnetwork being different from the first subnetwork; and

a communication processor coupled between the base processing unit and the first and second communication transceivers for converting data received by the first and second communication transceivers to a format for processing by the base processing unit in accordance with the set of communication software routines and for converting data processed by the base processing unit to a format for transmission by a selected one of the first and second communication transceivers, thereby isolating the base processing unit from differences between the first and second operating characteristics of the first and second communication transceivers.

12. (Currently amended) The mobile computing device ~~portable data collection terminal~~ of claim 11 wherein the communication processor comprises:

a first processing unit coupled between the base processing unit and the first communication transceiver for converting data received by the first communication transceiver to a format for processing by the base processing unit in accordance with the set of communication software routines and for converting data processed by the base processing unit to a format for transmission by the first communication transceiver, and

a second processing unit coupled between the base processing unit and the second communication transceiver for converting data received by the second communication transceiver to a format for processing by the base processing unit in accordance with the set of communication software routines and for converting data processed by the base processing unit to a format for transmission by the second communication transceiver.

13. (Currently amended) The mobile computing device ~~portable data collection terminal~~ of claim 11 wherein the first communication transceiver comprises a wired transceiver and the second communication transceiver comprises a wireless transceiver.

14. (Currently amended) The mobile computing device ~~portable data collection terminal~~ of claim 13 wherein the communication processor includes test means, the test means including means for initiating a test communication by the second communication transceiver and means

responsive to the absence of receipt of a reply test communication by the first communication transceiver following initiation of a test communication by the second communication transceiver for conducting data communications with the second communication transceiver.

15. (Currently amended) The mobile computing device ~~portable data collection terminal~~ of claim 14 wherein the test means further includes means responsive to receipt of a test communication by the second communication transceiver for initiating a test communication by the first communication transceiver.

16. (Currently amended) The mobile computing device ~~portable data collection terminal~~ of claim 11 wherein the communication module is housed in a PCMCIA card.

17. (Currently amended) The mobile computing device ~~portable data collection terminal~~ of claim 11 wherein the communication processor further includes means for relaying communication received by one of its first and second communication transceivers for retransmission by the other of its second and first communication transceivers.

18. (Currently amended) ~~At least one communication module for use with in a portable data terminal~~ mobile computing device, the at least one communication module comprising:

a first communication transceiver comprising a first operating characteristic for conducting data communications on a first subnetwork;

a second communication transceiver comprising a second operating characteristic for conducting data communications on a second subnetwork, the second operating characteristic being different from the first operating characteristic and the second subnetwork being different from the first subnetwork; and

a communication processor coupled to the first and second communication transceivers for converting data received by the first and second communication transceivers to a predetermined format and for converting data in a predetermined format to a format for transmission by a selected one of the first and second communication transceivers.

19. (Currently amended) The at least one communication module of claim 18 wherein the communication processor comprises:

a first processing unit for converting data received by the first communication transceiver to a predetermined format and for converting data to a predetermined format for transmission by the first communication transceiver, and

a second processing unit for converting data received by the second communication transceiver to a predetermined format and for converting data to a predetermined format for transmission by the second communication transceiver.

20. (Currently amended) The at least one communication module of claim 18 wherein the first communication transceiver comprises a wired transceiver and the second communication transceiver comprises a wireless transceiver.

21. (Currently amended) The at least one communication module of claim 20 wherein the communication processor includes test means, the test means including means for initiating a test communication by the second communication transceiver and means responsive to the absence of receipt of a reply test communication by the first communication transceiver following initiation of a test communication by the second communication transceiver for conducting data communications with the second communication transceiver.

22. (Currently amended) The at least one communication module of claim 21 wherein the test means further includes means responsive to receipt of a test communication by the second communication transceiver for initiating a test communication by the first communication transceiver.

23. (Currently amended) The at least one communication module of claim 18 further characterized by being housed in a PCMCIA card.

24. (Currently amended) The at least one communication module of claim 18 wherein the communication processor further includes means for relaying communication received by one of its first and second communication transceivers for retransmission by the other of its second and first communication transceivers.

25. (Currently amended) A communication module for use ~~with~~ in a data terminal ~~comprising~~ mobile computing device, the communication module comprising:

a first communication transceiver comprising first operating characteristics used to conduct data communications on a first subnetwork;

a second communication transceiver comprising second operating characteristics used to conduct communications on a second subnetwork, the second operating characteristics being different from the first operating characteristics and the second subnetwork being different from the first subnetwork; and

a communication processor coupled to the first and second communication transceivers that converts data received by the first and second communication transceivers to a predetermined format and that converts data in the predetermined format to a format for transmission by a selected one of the first and second transceivers.

26. (Previously presented) The communication module of claim 25, the communication processor comprising:

a first processing unit that converts data received by the first communication transceiver to the predetermined format and that converts data to a predetermined format in preparation for transmission by the first communication transceiver; and

a second processing unit that converts data received by the second communication transceiver to a predetermined format and that converts data to a predetermined format in preparation for transmission by the second communication transceiver.

27. (Previously presented) The communication module of claim 25, the first communication transceiver comprising a wired transceiver and the second communication transceiver comprising a wireless transceiver.

28. (Previously presented) The communication module of claim 27, the communication processor further comprising a tester that initiates a test communication by the second communication transceiver and that responds to the absence of receipt of a reply test communication by the first communication transceiver following initiation of the test

communication by the second communication transceiver by conducting data communications with the second communication transceiver.

29. (Previously presented) The communication module of claim 28, the tester responding to a receipt of a test communication by the second communication transceiver by initiating a test communication by the first transceiver.

30. (Previously presented) The communication module of claim 25, the first communication processor, the second communication processor and the communication processor housed in a PCMCIA card.

31. (Previously presented) The communication module of claim 25, the communication processor further relaying communications received by one of its first and second communication transceivers for retransmission by the other of its second and first communication transceivers.

32-49. (Canceled)